

REMARKS

With the present amendments, Claims 69 and 71 are pending in this application. Claims 69 and 71 have been amended so as to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Support for these amendments is found in the previously pending claims and in the specification and claims as originally filed.

No new matter is added by way of the claim amendments.

Claims 17, 21, 70 and 72 are now canceled in this Amendment in order to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application, these cancellations being without acquiescence to any rejections, without disclaimer and without prejudice to prosecution of the subject matter of the canceled claims in related continuation, continuation-in-part, and divisional applications.

The Objections to Claims 69 and 71

Applicants note that claims 69 and 71 were acknowledged by the USPTO as being allowable, but were objected to as being dependent from claims rejected by the USPTO. As amended, claims 69 and 71 are now rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the objections to claims 69 and 71 are overcome.

The Rejections of Claims 17, 21, 70, and 72

Claims 17, 21, 70, and 72 standing canceled in the present amendment without acquiescence, without disclaimer, and without prejudice to further prosecution in related applications, Applicants submit that the rejections to claims 17, 21, 70, and 72 are moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any points remain that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-given telephone number.

Please charge any fees that may be required, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-4634 (referencing UCR-0674 US/123699-182569).

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Respectfully submitted,



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